THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's views and concerns on all these points were forcefully brought to the notice of the British Foreign Secretary.

Strike by textile workers

307. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile workers in Delhi and oher places in the country went on a strike in recent weeks;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for their strike and what steps have been taken by Government to arrive at a settlement; and

(c) what are the losses incurred by the textile industry as a result of the strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Information in respect of the strike called by textile workers of Delhi has been given in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 241 given on 27-7-1986. Information in respect of strikes by textile workers in other places in the recent past and the losses incurred by the textile industry due thereto is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Measures to boost exports

308. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the volume and value of the total exports from India during last three years, year-wise;

(b) what is the targetted growth rate of exports during the current Five Year Plan period; and

(c) what measures are being taken to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) According to the latest available foreign trade statistics, the value of India's exports during 1983-84, 1984-85 and April—Dec. 1985 is as under:—

(*Value: Rs. crores*)

Year	Exports from India
1983-84	9872·10
1984-85	11855·15
April-Dec., 1985(P) . .	7655·57

(P) —Provisional and subject to revision.

(b) According to the Seventh Plan Document, the volume of exports is projected to rise to nearly 7 per cent annually during 1985—90.

(c) Increasing our exports, diversifying our productive base, modernising our productive apparatus are some of the steps taken by the Government. Modification and periodic revision of our industrial and fiscal policies are also the additional steps taken from time to time.

Indo-Bangla talks on trade

309. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks were held in recent weeks between India and Bangladesh to increase the volume of trade between the two countries; and

(b) if so, what are the detajls and result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was decided inter alia, to extend the Trade Agreement between India and

Bangladesh for a further period of three years; that India would import urea and newsprint from Bangladesh and Bangladesh would import a larger quantity of coal from India.

Claim applications received by the Oriental Bank of Commerce, Ghaziabad

310. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of claim applications received date-wise from January, 1986 to June, 1986 by the Oriental Bank of Commerce, Ghaziabad from the widows regarding succession to deceased depositor;

(b) what is the approximate time taken to clear such claims especially from widows;

(c) whether all such applications have since been cleared;

(d) if not, what are the reasons for the delay in each case; and

(e) by when all such claims are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) According to the information furnished by the Oriental Bank of Commerce, four such claim applications were received by its Ghaziabad Branch from the widows on different dates (27-3-86, 10-4-86, 3-5-86, and 27.5.86) during the period January, 1986 to June, 1986.

(b) The Bank has reported that the normal time taken to process and clear the claim is approximately 4 weeks.

(c) to (e) Out of four claims, one claim has since been finally settled; two claims have been cleared by the Bank and the claimants requested to submit indemnity bonds for releasing the payments; and in one claim, the claimant was advised by the Bank to submit Affidavit as per Bank's format, which is still awaited from her.

Alleged molestation of a Soviet tourist in Hotel Samrat in New Delhi

311. DR. G. VIJAY MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the action taken against the two officials of the India Tourism Development Corporation who were alleged to have molested a Soviet tourist in Hotel Samrat in New Delhi recently?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SYED): Both the officials involved in the matter were handed over to the police and a case has been registe ed against them. Both of them were also relieved of their duties consequent upon their resignations.

Effect of introduction of artificial fibres in Textile Industry on cotton growers

312. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton growers have been adversely affected due to the introduction of artificial fibres in textile industry;

(b) if so, what guarantee has been offered to the cotton growers about the procurement of their produce;

(c) what is the fate of the Cotton Monopoly Scheme of Maharashtra; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to start the Cotton Monopoly Scheme throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government agencies are buying cotton from farmers whenever the prices are falling below the minimum support prices.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government of India.

(d) No, Sir.